

# Churches...

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Shortly afterwards the IOOF hall was rented for a meeting place, and Elder L.S. Rhodes was appointed pastor.

Ten years later, at a meeting held in the Nora Self Hall, the mission was set up as an official branch of the church. Along with members of the Webberley families, other family names recorded at that meeting were those of Lovett, Rhodes, Lasley, Coop, Bevard, Williams, and Taylor.

In 1948, the church acquired the old Methodist Church at NE 4th and Everett, the oldest church building in the city. For a while, both Methodists and the LDS used this building, as weather had held up the completion of the new Methodist Church.

#### LUTHERANS

St. Matthew Lutheran Church in Washougal was chartered on Nov. 9, 1941. There were 20 charter members.

The first president was Carl Genz. Other early officials were Fred Blomenkamp, Reinhold Hirsekorn, Charles Kuhnke, and A.L. Hirsekorn.

At first, the congregation met in each others homes. In the late 40s, a small chapel was constructed on 17th Street. This still survives as the education building to which function it was relegated when the new church was completed in 1965.

A highpoint of the

church's recent history was the dedication of a magnificent new pipe organ on Dec. 21, 1975.

#### EPISCOPAL CHURCH

One of the newest churches in the area is the Episcopal Church on B Street, Washougal. It began with the invitation of the Rev. Fredrick H. Avery, rector of St. Luke's in Vancouver, to minister to several families in the community here.

In 1951, a meeting was organized at the home of Charles K. Bishop in Washougal, for the purpose of establishing an Episcopal church. The meeting was held during February, and the following month, Palm Sunday, March 18, 1951, the first service was held.

This was held in the Camas Christian Church.

In the space of a couple of months, arrangements were made with a local inn for the use of some basement rooms. Officers of the congregation at that time included Charles K. Bishop, Mrs. Carl Johnson, Dr. E.H. Demers and Mrs. F.W. Palmer.

On July 1, 1951, the congregation, which had chosen St. Anne as patroness, got its first priest, Rev. Fr. W.O. Lonergan, and by Feb. 26, 1952, had become a mission of the diocese of Olympia. That year the bishop of Olympia made his visit and confirmed 27.

In August 1952, St. Anne's purchased the

former Christian Church at B Street in Washougal, and services began there on Oct. 9 of that year.

Plans are now being put into operation for an extensive renovation and enlargement of the present church on B Street.

#### ASSEMBLY OF GOD

The Assembly of God Church began in Camas in 1937, in the building that is now the Moose Lodge on SE Dallas.

In 1958, the present church on 3rd Avenue was constructed to fill the needs of a growing congregation, now numbering about 200 persons.

#### JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES

The mid 1940s saw the increasing presence of members of the Witnesses of Jehovah. At first they were connected with the Vancouver organization, but in 1948, they became a distinct congregation here.

At first, their meetings were held in private homes and granges, until their first Kingdom Hall was completed in 1953 on 32nd St. in Washougal.

This hall has a capacity for 55 persons, so when the congregation's numbers grew to 120 it became necessary to build once again.

In 1972, a completely new Kingdom Hall was opened, with facilities for the present congregation, which now totals 150, including 85 baptized members.

During the 1940s and 1950s, about one quarter of the Vancouver Church of Christ congregation came from the Camas-Washougal area. Finally, in the words of member John Pollard, they "swarmed," and began meeting in Camas from 1953.

At that time they used a building on Garfield and 2nd, which is now used as a chiropractic center.

This year the congregation inaugurated a new bus program, with two new vehicles.

#### SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

The Seventh-day Adventists were organized here on April 18, 1914, with 25 members. For the first years they met in private houses, but in December 1922, they began meeting in the Odd Fellows



THE OLD Camas Methodist Church building, at Fourth and Franklin, was dedicated in 1891. It was abandoned some 60 years later in favor of a new building. The site is now occupied by the Camas city hall.

in 1962. A fire occurred in 1964, after which the building was both restored and enlarged.

Since the move to the new site, this congregation has been known as Lacamas Heights Baptist Church.

#### CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

The Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter-day Saints had its beginnings in the Zalatel home in Washougal about 1929. Mr. Anton Zalatel was the first superintendent.

They later met for many years in the Washougal Grange hall and at the Woodburn schoolhouse.

Finally, they built their present chapel in 1957, at 3320 H Street, Washougal.

Their membership now numbers about 600.

#### CALVARY TEMPLE

Calvary Temple had its beginnings in 1951, when an army building was dismantled at Fort Vancouver, transferred to Washougal and re-erected at 1 Street and 17th.

This remains as the Calvary Temple, now serving a congregation of about 60.

Originally, only the shell of the building existed, and during the past years, rooms have been built inside, and an upstairs room added. Present pastor is the Rev. Dave Manning.



LONG A LANDMARK in Washougal, the old Methodist Episcopal Church, built in 1913, overlooked the Columbia, and was across the street from the old Washougal High School. The name Episcopal was dropped in later years. When the Washougal United Methodist congregation built its new sanctuary in 1972, it incorporated the stained glass windows from this edifice.